

WELCOME

GSA

EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE
RAUL HECTOR CASTRO LAND PORT OF ENTRY AND
PROPOSED COMMERCIAL LAND PORT OF ENTRY
DOUGLAS, ARIZONA

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING



August 11, 2022

Douglas Visitor Center

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

OPEN HOUSE

GSA

WE WANT YOUR COMMENTS!

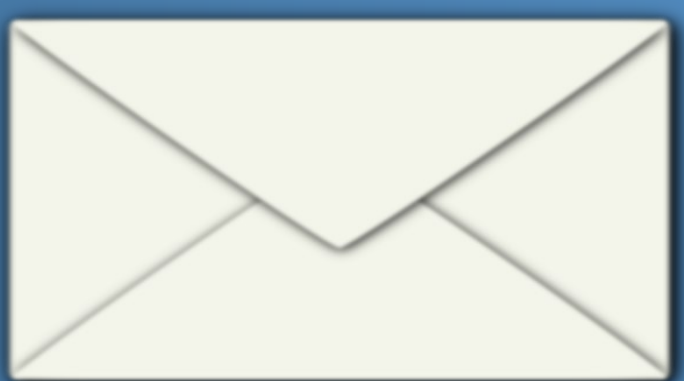


In Writing. Fill out a comment form and submit at this scoping meeting.



By E-mail. Send comments to:
osmahn.kadri@gsa.gov

(Please include “*Douglas Scoping Comment*” in subject line.)



By Mail. Send comments to:

Attention: Osmahn Kadri, NEPA Project Manager
General Services Administration
c/o Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc.
77 Upper Rock Circle, Suite 302
Rockville, MD 20850

GSA welcomes public input on the resources and issues that are important to you.

Public scoping comments must be received by August 22, 2022.

NEPA TIMELINE

RHC LPOE, Douglas, AZ

Environmental Impact Statement



NOTICE OF INTENT

Published in
Federal Register
[July 14, 2022]

PUBLIC SCOPING
COMMENT PERIOD

DRAFT EIS

Public Scoping Meeting
August 11, 2022

★
We are here

DRAFT EIS
COMMENT PERIOD

FINAL EIS

Public Meeting
Early 2023

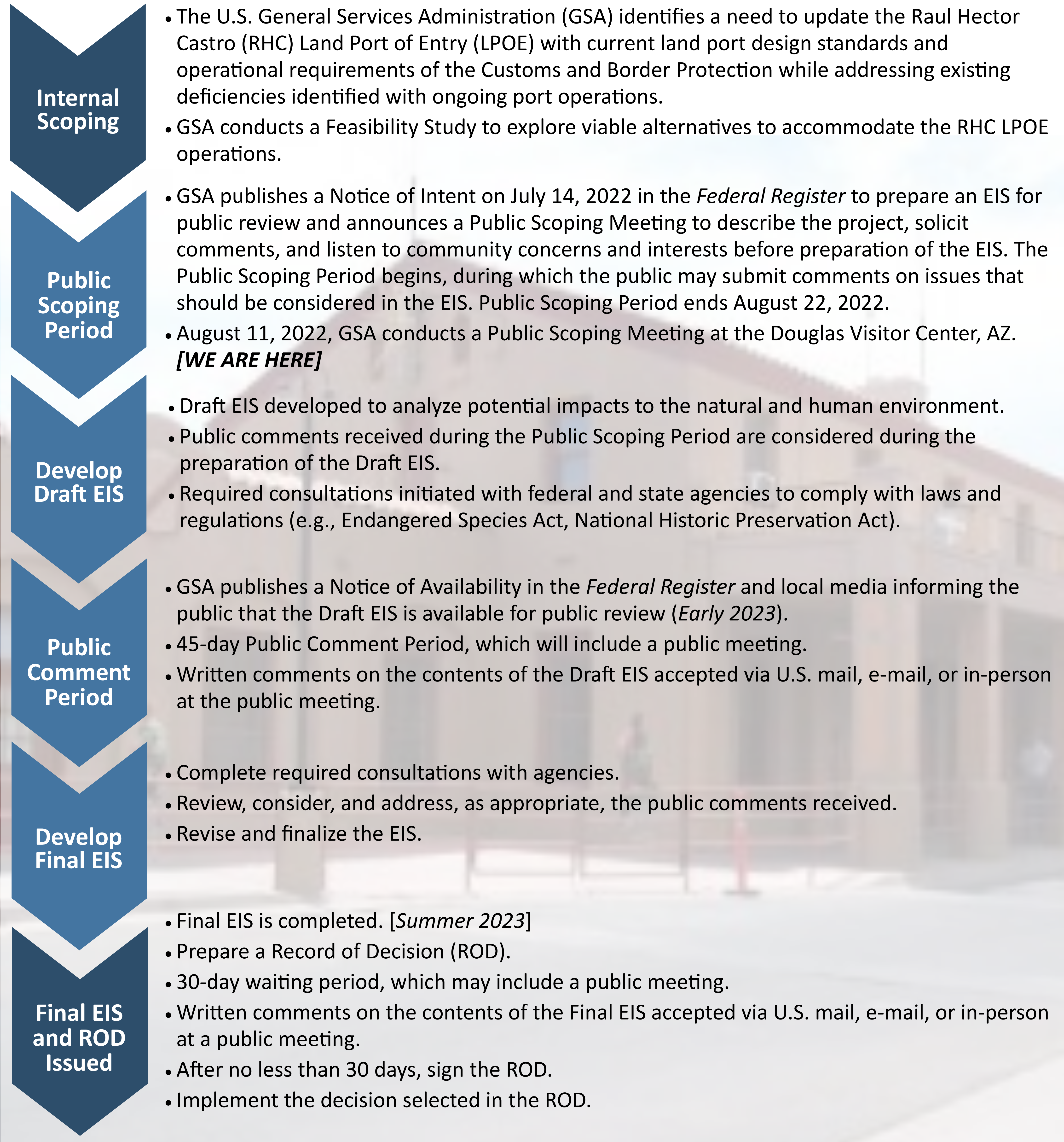
FINAL EIS
WAIT PERIOD

RECORD OF
DECISION

Public Meeting
Summer 2023

Opportunities for Public Involvement

KEY STEPS



Federal agencies are required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to integrate environmental values into planning and decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions through a systematic, interdisciplinary approach.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

RHC LPOE, Douglas, AZ

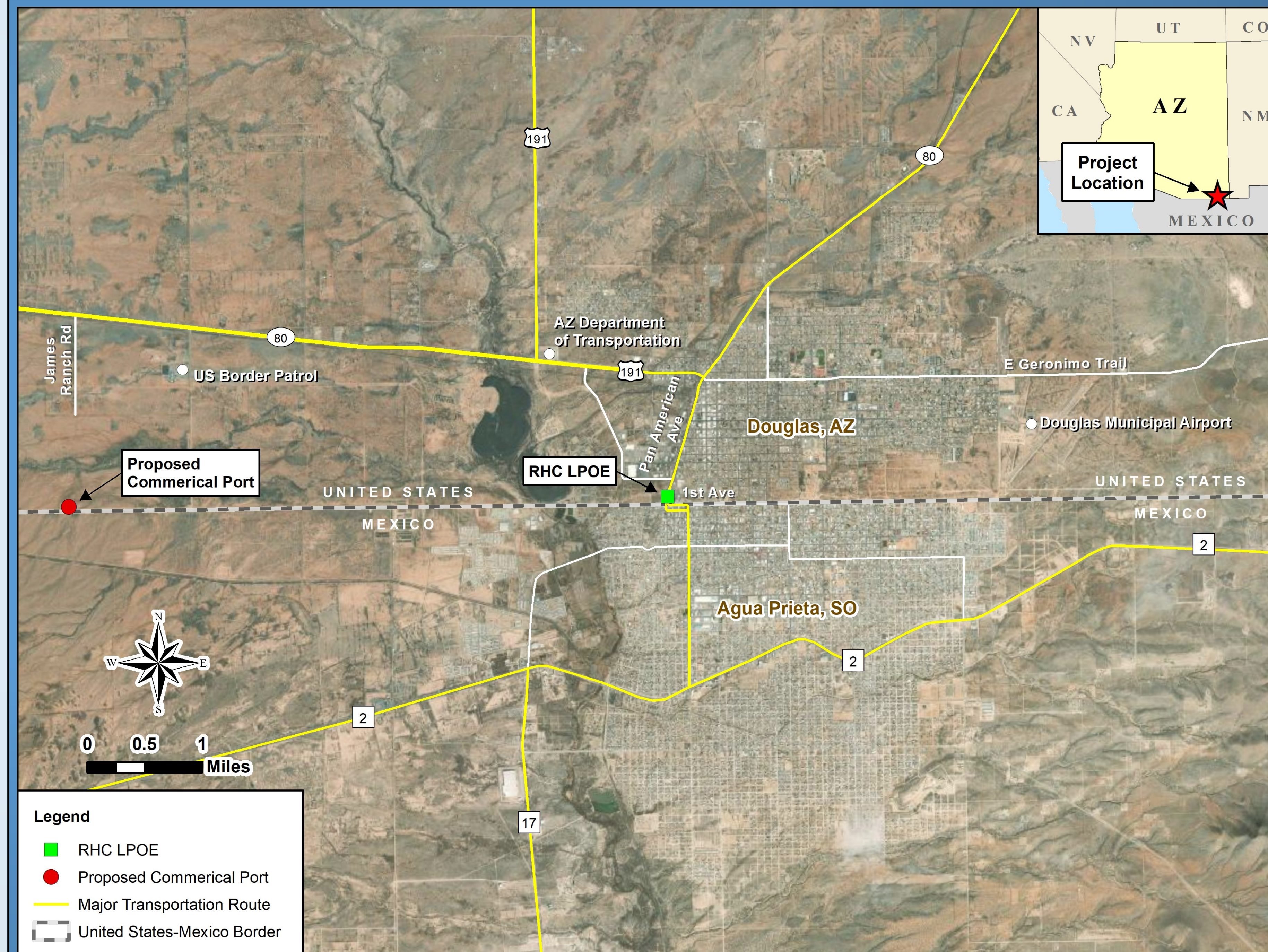
Environmental Impact Statement



The Raul Hector Castro (RHC) Land Port of Entry (LPOE) is owned and managed by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The RHC LPOE is a port of entry for vehicles and pedestrians crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, between Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora in Mexico. The port is a full-service, multi-modal facility where CBP officers inspect commercially-owned vehicles (COVs), privately-owned vehicles (POVs), and pedestrians.

The RHC LPOE has operated since 1914, with existing facilities constructed in the 1930s. Facilities within the RHC LPOE include the historic Main Building and Garage. Due to steady increases in traffic, poor pedestrian infrastructure, lack of separation between traffic types (COV, POV, and pedestrian), and outdated facilities and technologies, the facilities at the RHC LPOE no longer function adequately and pose safety and security risks for CBP officers and the general public. The existing RHC LPOE has limited opportunity for expansion within its current footprint. The existing facilities also have limited interior space for offices and processing. Additionally, truck traffic is routed through downtown Douglas and is a safety concern for the community.

To address these issues, GSA is proposing to expand and modernize the existing RHC LPOE and construct a new Commercial LPOE to the west of the existing port. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the project.



Project Location (RHC LPOE and Proposed Commercial LPOE)

PURPOSE AND NEED

RHC LPOE, Douglas, AZ

Environmental Impact Statement

Purpose. The purpose of the Proposed Action is for GSA to support Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) mission by bringing the RHC LPOE operations in line with current land port design standards and operational requirements of CBP while addressing existing deficiencies identified with the ongoing port operations.

Need. The Proposed Action is needed to:

- ◆ Improve the capacity and functionality of the port to meet future demand, while maintaining the capability to meet border security initiatives;
- ◆ Ensure the safety and security for the employees and users of the RHC LPOE; and
- ◆ Improve traffic congestion and safety for the City of Douglas.



PROPOSED ACTION

RHC LPOE, Douglas, AZ

Environmental Impact Statement



The project consists of two main components:

- 1) Construction of a **new Commercial LPOE** (Figure 1), at a site located approximately 5 miles west of the existing port, dedicated to processing only commercial vehicles; and
- 2) Expansion and modernization of the existing RHC LPOE to a **Non-Commercial LPOE** (Figure 2), dedicated to processing only personal vehicles and pedestrians.

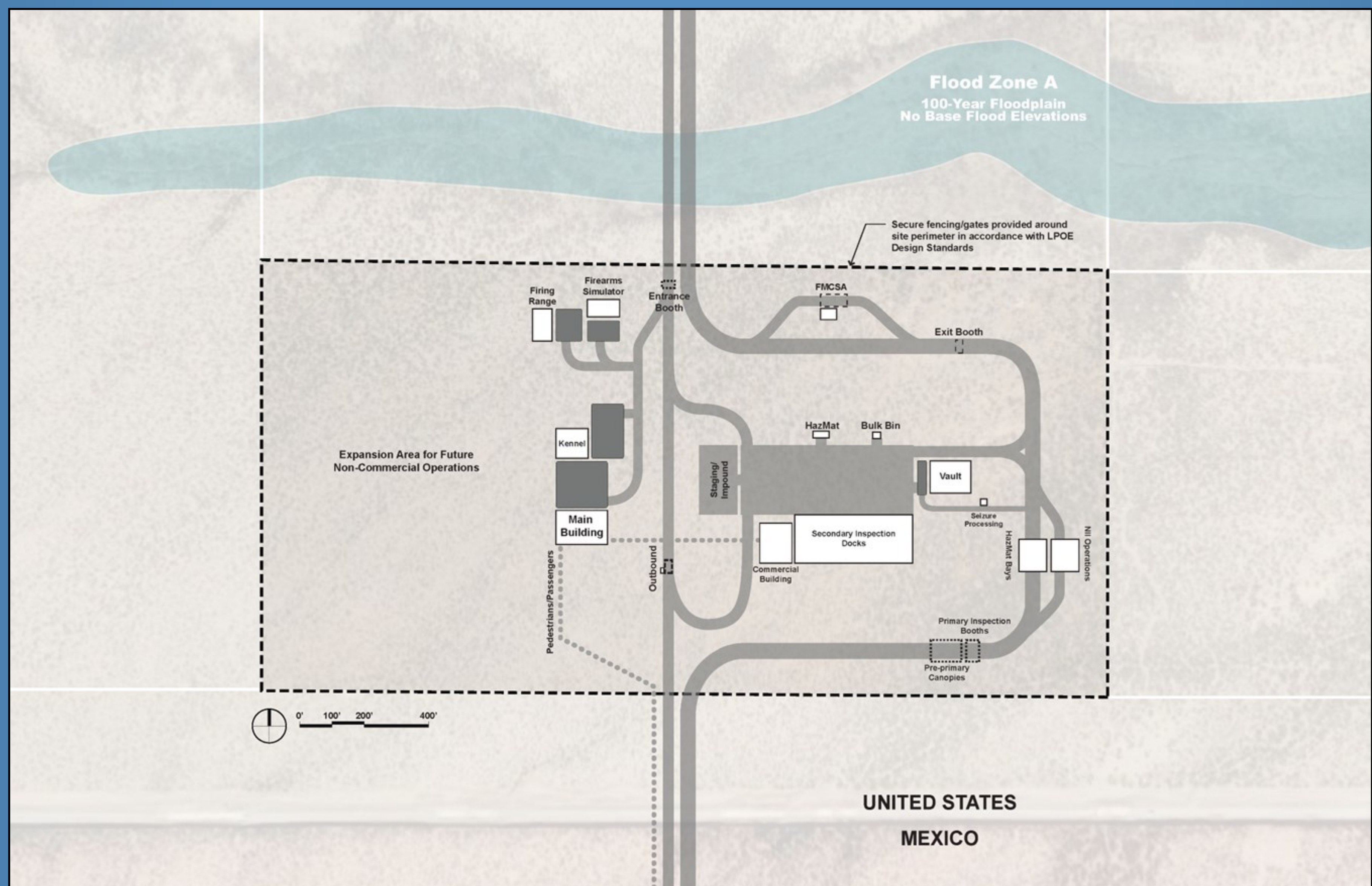


Figure 1. Conceptual Layout of Proposed New Commercial LPOE

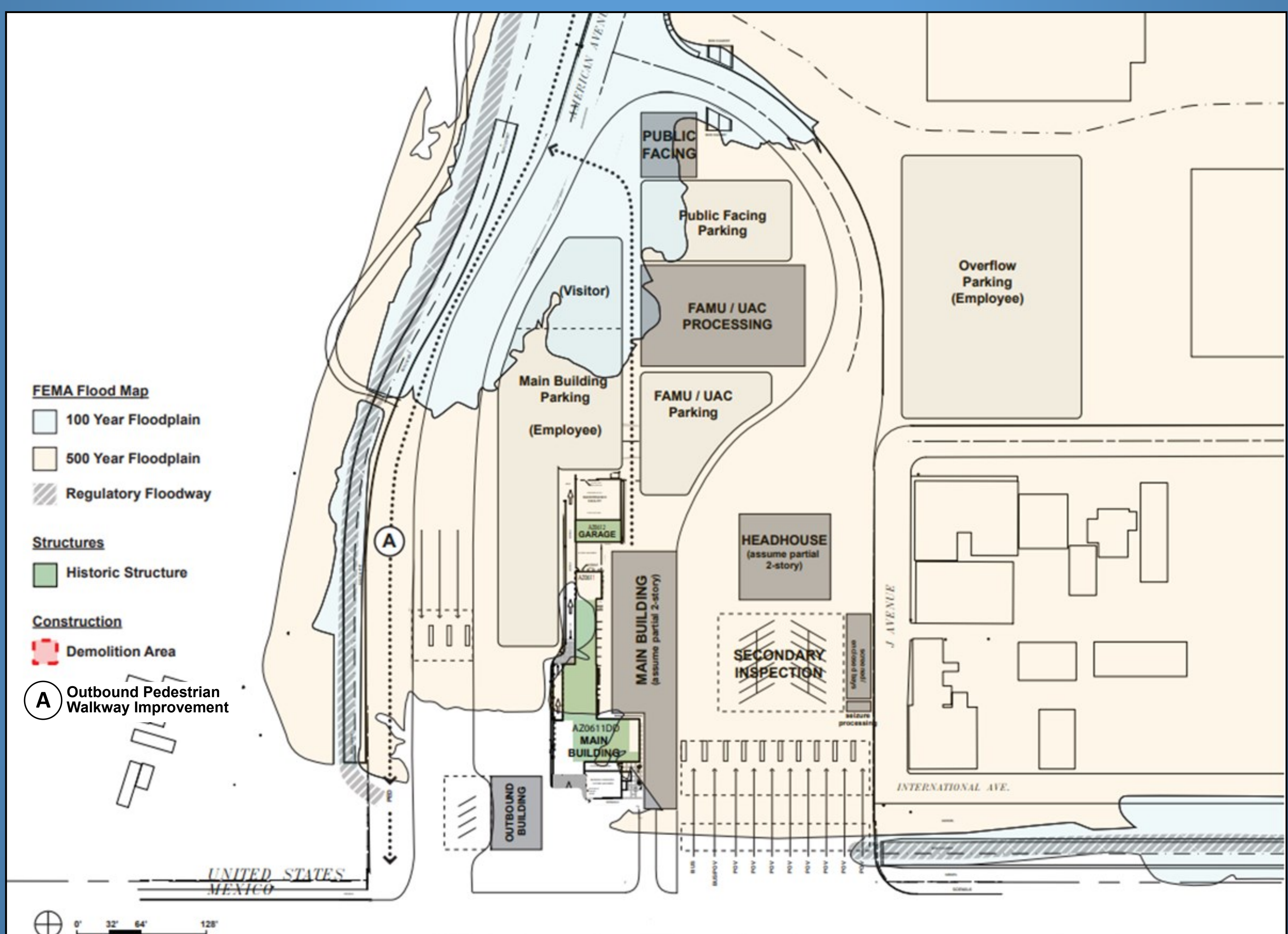


Figure 2. Conceptual Layout of Non-Commercial RHC LPOE During Final Construction Phase

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

RHC LPOE, Douglas, AZ

Environmental Impact Statement



The EIS will consider two “**action**” alternatives:

- ◆ **Alternative 1.** Includes construction of the new Commercial LPOE first, followed by a phased expansion and modernization of the existing RHC LPOE *after* the Commercial LPOE is operational.
- ◆ **Alternative 2.** Includes construction of the new Commercial LPOE and phased expansion and modernization of the existing RHC LPOE *at the same time*, to include land acquisition near the existing RHC LPOE, allowing expansion and modernization activities to occur while the existing RHC LPOE remains operational.

Both alternatives would require land acquisition (see figure) and phased construction at the RHC LPOE.



Expansion Areas for Alternative 1 and Alternative 2